

Message Text

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UNCLAS TEHRAN 11525

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PDIP, BEXP, EAGR, IR
SUBJ: NEW GOVERNMENT PURCHASING POLICY

REF: (A) TEHRAN 9590, (B) AGATT IR6016, (C) TEHRAN TOFAS 50

1. NEWSPAPER REPORT ON NOVEMBER 15 INDICATES FOREIGN TRANSACTION COMPANY OF IRAN(FTC), AN ENTITY ATTACHED TO THE COMMERCE MINISTRY HAS MADE "MAJOR POLICY DECISION" TO ESTABLISH DIRECT LINKS WITH PRODUCERS AND SUPPLIERS. FTC MANAGING DIRECTOR MANOUCHEHR AZMUDEH ALSO STATED THAT FTC REPS WOULD BE POSTED AT MAJOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CENTERS TO KEEP FTC POSTED ON DAILY WORLD COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS AND FOR "ON-THE-SPOT ACTION."

2. AZMUDEH ADDITIONALLY ASSERTED DECISION TAKEN TO KEEP CLOSE WATCH ON THE QUALITY OF COMMODITIES SUPPLIED IRAN, MENTIONING PAST "UNPLEASANT" EXPERIENCE.

3. COMMENT: DECISIONS REPORTED ABOVE ACTUALLY REPRESENT EXISTING POLICY, ESPECIALLY AS REGARDS DIRECT DEALINGS WITH SUPPLIERS (REF (A) AND (B). FTC OVERSEAS REPRESENTATIVES MENTIONED CURRENTLY ARE THOSE RECENTLY SENT BY MINISTRY OF COMMERCE TO WASHINGTON (MOHAMMAD-MEHDI FARTASH), LONDON, PARIS, BRUSSELS, AND VIENNA(LATTER HAS REGIONAL RESPONSILITIES (REF (A)). IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT QUALITY CONTROL MEASURE BEING TAKEN INVOLVES USE OF PRIVATE INSPECTION FIRMS.
HELMS

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